MISS America

DECEMBER · 10¢

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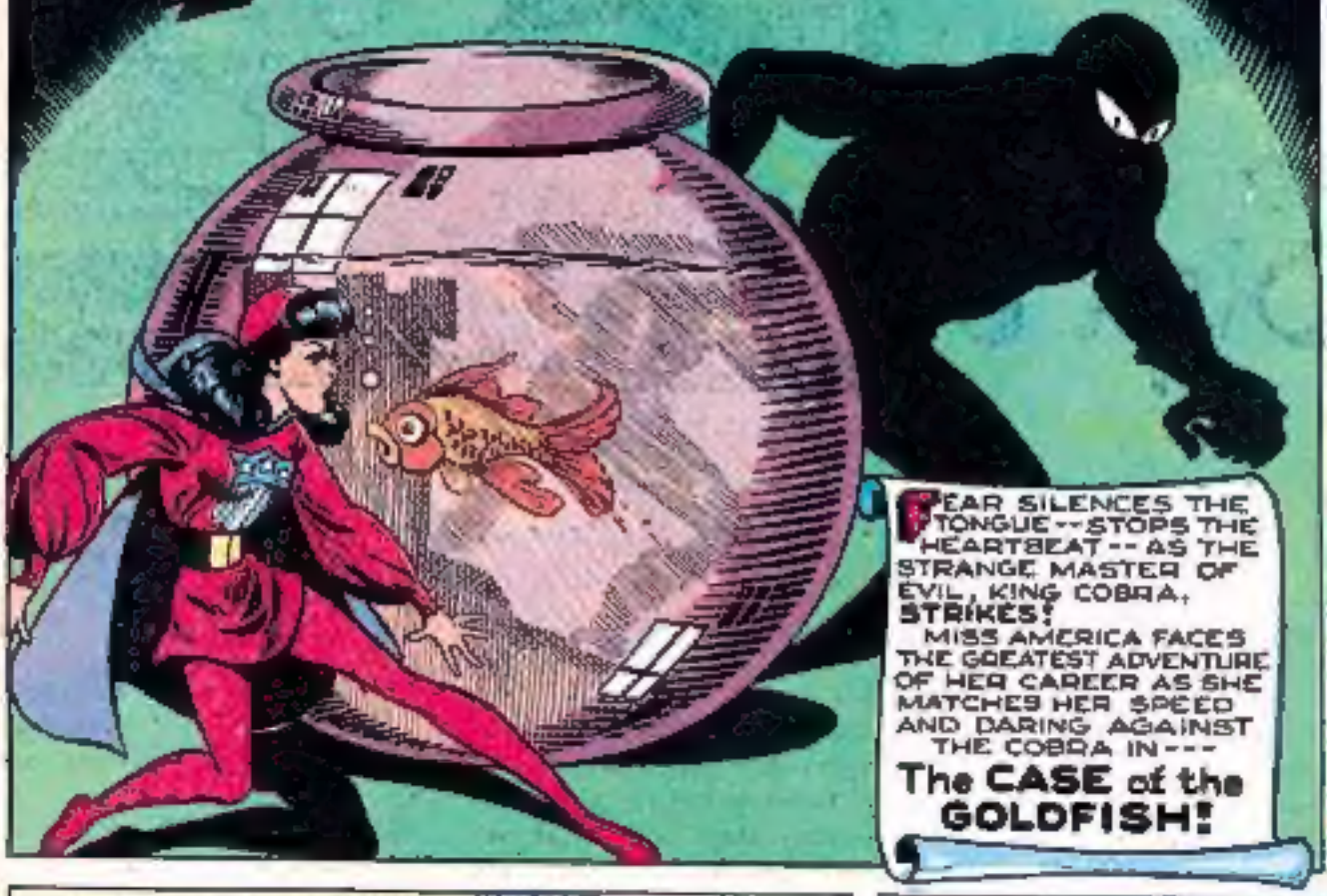
Miss AMERICA



FEAR SILENCES THE TONGUE--STOPS THE HEARTBEAT--AS THE STRANGE MASTER OF EVIL, KING COBRA, **STRIKES!**

MISS AMERICA FACES THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF HER CAREER AS SHE MATCHES HER SPEED AND DARING AGAINST THE COBRA IN---

The CASE of the GOLDFISH!

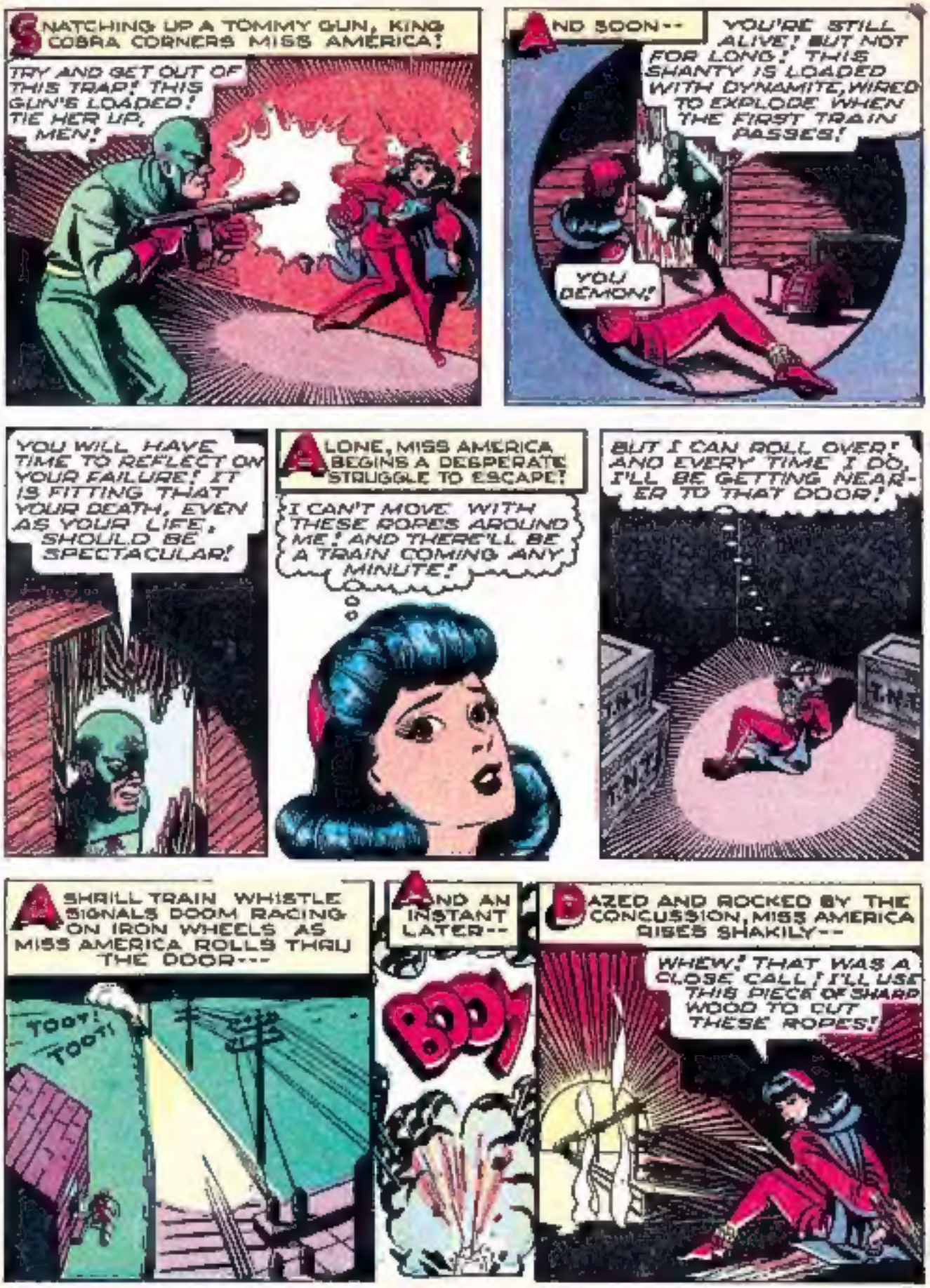
THRU THE NIGHT, SINGING WIRES CARRY A VOICE OF FRANTIC PLEADING---- FROM A MAN WHO KNOWS HE IS DOOMED TO DIE!
JIM, LISTEN! THE BOMBER PLANS! KING COBRA'S AFTER THEM! HE---

A GLOVED HAND REPLACES THE PHONE! THE CONVERSATION ENDS ABRUPTLY! JOHN HARVEY IS DEAD!
JOHN! WHAT'S WRONG? WHY--
IN THE HOME OF JIM BENTON AND HIS NIECE, MADELINE JOYCE---
JOHN HARVEY'S IN TROUBLE! I HEARD A SHOT! I'VE GOT TO GO TO HIM!
I'LL CALL THE POLICE, UNCLE!
AS SOON AS JIM BENTON LEAVES, A CAPED FIGURE ZOOMS UPWARD THRU EMPTY SPACE---
I CAN REACH JOHN HARVEY'S HOUSE BEFORE THE POLICE!
ZOOM!
HE'S IN DANGER! I MUST GAIN MORE SPEED!
MEANWHILE--IN JOHN HARVEY'S HOME---
THE PLANS MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE!
THEN--
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? MAYBE I CAN HELP!
MISS AMERICA!
I THINK YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE!

YOU WON'T TRAP ME SO EASILY!
OUCH!
I CAN FIGHT THAT WAY TOO!
RECOVERING FROM THE BLOW, THE COBRA'S HENCHMAN TACKLES MISS AMERICA IN AN UNGUARDED MOMENT---
THIS GUN WORKS AT BOTH ENDS!
UH!
PAIN-WRACKED MINUTES LATER--
OH! MY HEAD! LOOKS LIKE KING COBRA AND HIS GANG HAVE GONE
I'M TOO LATE! JOHN HARVEY'S DEAD! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
IT'S UNCLE JIM AND THE POLICE! HE MUSTN'T FIND MISS AMERICA HERE!

KING COBRA'S ESCAPED! HE MUST HAVE FOUND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR! I'VE FAILED--BUT I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL MEET AGAIN!
BUT IN A RAILROAD SHANTY NOT FAR AWAY---
JOHN HARVEY HAD THE PLANS FOR THE NEW BOMBER! IT'S FUNNY WE DIDN'T FIND THEM!
HMM! HE WAS PHONING HIS FRIEND, JIM BENTON! PERHAPS HE TOLD BENTON WHERE HE HID THE PLANS! I THINK--- THE COBRA WILL VISIT MR. BENTON!
THE NEXT NIGHT, A PUZZLED AND HEARTSICK JIM BENTON TALKS TO HIS NIECE, MADELINE---
JOHN HARVEY WAS A BRILLIANT MAN! IT'S A SHAME THAT HIS MIND SHOULD HAVE BROKEN DOWN SO COMPLETELY!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT, UNCLE?
HE APPOINTED ME EXECUTOR OF HIS ESTATE! I'VE JUST READ HIS WILL! IT WAS WRITTEN BY A MAN WHO'D TAKEN LEAVE OF HIS SENSES! WHY WOULD HE LEAVE EVERYTHING HE OWNED TO---
SUDDENLY--THE LIGHTS GO OUT---
UNCLE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UGGHH!
MOMENTS LATER---
SOMEONE STRUCK ME FROM BEHIND! I NEVER SAW HIM!

THAT'S QUEER! HE FLED WITHOUT TAKING ANYTHING EXCEPT JOHN HARVEY'S WILL---
TRY TO REST, UNCLE JIM!
BUT THERE'S NO REST FOR MISS AMERICA---
KING COBRA MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS!
MEANWHILE, KING COBRA AND HIS HENCHMEN REACH THE SHANTY---
NICE WORK, MEN! WE GOT THE PLANS AND ESCAPED WITHOUT PURSUIT!
BUT INSIDE THE SHANTY, KING COBRA MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY!
THIS ISN'T THE PLAN! IT'S JOHN HARVEY'S WILL!
WAIT--EITHER HARVEY WAS CRAZY OR---HE LEAVES EVERYTHING TO A BOWL OF GOLDFISH! AHHH! NOW I KNOW WHERE THE PLANS ARE HIDDEN!
AND THEN---MISS AMERICA'S GRIM SEARCH COMES TO AN END---!
THE TOEAD MARKS OF A CAR LED STRAIGHT FROM THE HOUSE TO THIS SHANTY! THAT MUST BE THE CAR!
KING COBRA!!! WE MEET AGAIN!
YOU!


SNATCHING UP A TOMMY GUN, KING COBRA CORNERS MISS AMERICA!
TRY AND GET OUT OF THIS TRAP! THIS GUN'S LOADED! TIE HER UP, MEN!
AND SOON--
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! BUT NOT FOR LONG! THIS SHANTY IS LOADED WITH DYNAMITE, WIRED TO EXPLODE WHEN THE FIRST TRAIN PASSES!
YOU DEMON!
YOU WILL HAVE TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR FAILURE! IT IS FITTING THAT YOUR DEATH, EVEN AS YOUR LIFE, SHOULD BE SPECTACULAR!
ALONE, MISS AMERICA BEGINS A DESPERATE STRUGGLE TO ESCAPE!
I CAN'T MOVE WITH THESE ROPES AROUND ME! AND THERE'LL BE A TRAIN COMING ANY MINUTE!
BUT I CAN ROLL OVER! AND EVERY TIME I DO, I'LL BE GETTING NEARER TO THAT DOOR!
T.N.T.
A SHRILL TRAIN WHISTLE SIGNALS DOOM RACING ON IRON WHEELS AS MISS AMERICA ROLLS THRU THE DOOR---
TOOT! TOOT!
AND AN INSTANT LATER--
BOOM
DAZED AND ROCKED BY THE CONCUSSION, MISS AMERICA RISES SHAKILY--
WHEW! THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL! I'LL USE THIS PIECE OF SHARP WOOD TO CUT THESE ROPES!

MEANWHILE, AT JIM BENTON'S HOME--
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HA-HA! JUST A BOWL OF GOLD-FISH, EH?
SUDDENLY---
I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK HERE!
MISS AMERICA! ALIVE!
AND SINCE YOU LIKE FISH SO MUCH, I'LL BE GLAD TO OBLIGE!
LATER, AFTER THE POLICE ARRIVE!
BUT WHY STEAL A BOWL OF GOLD-FISH?
HERE'S YOUR ANSWER! A ROLL OF MICROFILM SEWED INTO A POUCH ON ONE OF THE GOLD-FISH! THE PLANS OF THE BOMBER!
JOHN HARVEY KNEW KING COBRA WOULD KILL HIM TO GET THE PLANS AND HE HAD TO HIDE THEM! BY MENTIONING THE GOLDFISH IN HIS WILL, HE KNEW YOU'D TAKE THEM AND SOONER OR LATER DISCOVER THE TRUTH!
THE NEXT DAY---
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MADELINE? YOU HAVEN'T EATEN A THING!
FISH! I NEVER WANT TO SEE THEM AGAIN! I MEAN--ER-- I'M NOT HUNGRY, UNCLE!
THE END

Miss AMERICA
ONLY ONE CLUE—A RING—BUT HOW COULD MISS AMERICA TRACK DOWN THE OWNER? WHO WAS HE?
MADELINE JOYCE AND HER UNCLE, JIM BENTON ARE DRIVING HOME LATE AT NIGHT—THEY STOP FOR A RED LIGHT—
YOU KNOW, MADELINE, THESE NEIGHBORHOODS REMIND ME—? WHAT'S THAT!
THAT GIRL! SOMEONE IS CHASING HER! COME ON, UNCLE!
E-E-E-E!
STOP! STOP! (PUFF! PUFF!)
IT'S NO USE, UNCLE, HE'S GONE! HELP ME WITH THIS GIRL! WHAT HAPPENED, MISS?
PO!—! POISON—! HE—— OOOOO!

WE'VE GOT TO GET HER TO A DOCTOR!
YOU'RE WRONG, MADELINE! IT'S TOO LATE! SHE IS--- DEAD!
SOME MINUTES LATER AT THE CITY MORGUE!
WE'LL LEAVE HER AT THE MORGUE! YOU GET THE ATTENDANT! I'LL STAY WITH THE BODY!
RIGHT, UNCLE!
AS MADELINE LEAVES, A SHADOWY FIGURE STEPS FROM A CAR, AND STEALTHILY MOVING UP BEHIND HER UNCLE---
SAY, WHAT--?? OOOOOO!
POW!
WHILE UNAWARE OF THE ATTACK--- MADELINE RETURNS TO THE CAR WITH THE MORGUE ATTENDANT---
WHERE IS THE BODY, MISS?
IN THE---? WHY, IT'S GONE! OH-- UNCLE!
OOOO! WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING! SOMEONE JUST STEPPED UP BEHIND, SLUGGED YOU AND STOLE THAT POOR GIRL'S BODY!
ARE YOU TELLING ME I WAS SLUGGED! FEEL THIS MARK ON MY JAW!
H'MMM! A COILED SNAKE! FIND THE RING THAT MADE THAT MARK AND WE HAVE THE KIDNAPPER, IF NOT THE KILLER AS WELL!
IN THE MORGUE? NO THANKS!
YOU'D BETTER GET IT TREATED, UNCLE!
THERE'S A HOSPITAL ANNEX! COME, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE DOCTOR!
AS HER UNCLE LEAVES WITH THE ATTENDANT, MADELINE---
THANK GOODNESS THEY'RE GONE! NOW MAYBE I CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS! FIRST TO IDENTIFY HER, BUT HOW--? AH! HER BAG!

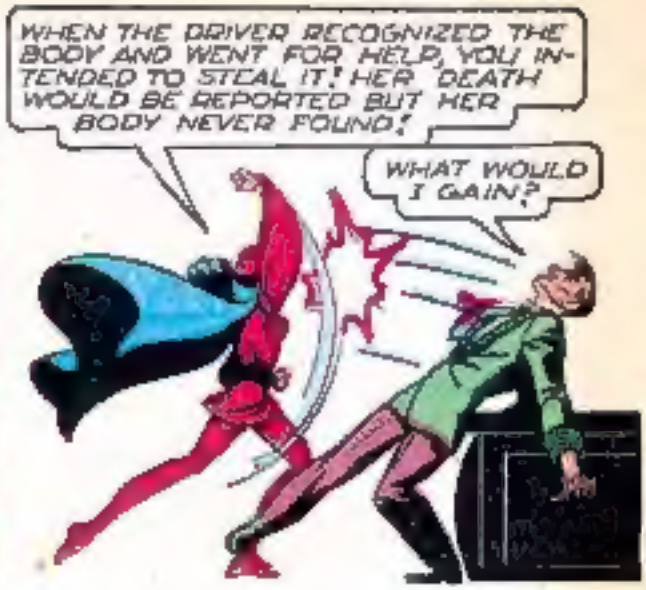
QUICKLY SEARCHING THE GIRL'S EVENING BAG, MADELINE FINDS--
--MISS AMERICA! I'LL TRY HER APARTMENT FIRST!
HMM, HIGH SOCIETY! I REMEMBER READING OF HER DEBUT! BUT WHY HER DEATH I THINK I'LL LOOK INTO THIS AS
DIANA LUKAS 33 E 10TH LANE CITY APT 17 A
AND SECONDS LATER -
THIS IS THE HOUSE AND- THAT'S HER WINDOW! SOMEONE'S HOME!
WELL THERE'S--OH, OH, COMPANY! THIS IS TIME TO DUCK! OUCH!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU CAME IN, BUT I DO KNOW HOW YOU--
THE GLANCING BLOW STAGGERS MISS AMERICA AND BEFORE SHE CAN REGAIN HER BALANCE -
--GO-- OUT!
OOOooo!
THIS SHOULD TEACH YOU THAT ABRUPT ENTRANCES ARE DANGEROUS! BUT, THEN, YOU'RE HARDLY IN A CONDITION TO APRECIATE THAT! GOODBYE, MY DEAR!

AND AS THE EFFECTS OF THE VICIOUS BLOW WEARS OFF!!
OHH! WHOEVER HIT ME, MEANT IT! LET'S SEE--! WHERE WAS I--?
THE GENTLEMAN, IF YOU COULD CALL HIM THAT, WAS THE KILLER! BUT WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE? LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?? OR--? A DUST CLOTH!
REMOVING FINGERPRINTS? THIS CUP AND SAUCER HAS BEEN WIPED CLEAN! THE OTHER PROBABLY CARRIES DIANA'S PRINTS! THE KILLER MUST HAVE BEEN A GOOD FRIEND!
I WONDER WHY HE SNATCHED HER BODY! IF I COULD FIND--? WHAT'S THIS? LOOKS LIKE A MAN'S SCRAWL! I'LL TRY THE NUMBER!
HELLO, INTER-CITY? DID A MAN REQUEST A CAB FOR 23 E. 40TH LANE, ABOUT AN HOUR AGO?
YES! OUR MAN CALLED BUT THE PARTY HAD ALREADY LEFT!
THIS CASE IS BEGINNING TO MAKE SENSE! I'VE GOT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE GIRL'S BACKGROUND!
AND SECONDS LATER AT THE DAILY CHRONICLE BUILDING--
I'M SURE THE NEWSPAPER WON'T MIND IF I BORROW FROM THEIR FILES! SOMETHING HAPPENED IN 1942---

NOW I REMEMBER! DWANA WAS DUE TO INHERIT HER ESTATE THIS WEEK! THAT'S WHY SHE WAS KILLED! BUT WHY STEAL HER BODY?
DAILY CHRON
SOCIETY COUPLE DIE IN CRASH!
AND WHO WOULD BENEFIT BY HER DEATH? JOHN LUKAS AND HER UNCLE AND GUARDIAN? THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT, IS TO VISIT HIM!
I'VE GOT THE MOTIVE! BUT THE KEY TO THE WHOLE THING IS MISSING! WHY STEAL HER BODY?
ZOOM!
I'VE A HUNCH THE ANSWER TO THAT LIES IN THE PERSON WHO INHERITS THE ESTATE AT HER DEATH! AH, HERE WE ARE!
ND SWOOPING DOWN TO A LIBRARY WINDOW---
EH? MISS AMERICA? WHAT IN THE WORLD BRINGS YOU HERE?
TAP! TAP!
QUESTIONS! I LOVE TO ASK THEM, DON'T YOU?
THIS IS ALL VERY PLEASANT! I'D LOVE TO PLAY, BUT I'M A BUSY MAN AND IF YOU DON'T STATE YOUR BUSINESS, I SHALL BE FORCED TO---
KICK ME OUT? HOW IMPOLITE! MIND IF I COME IN?

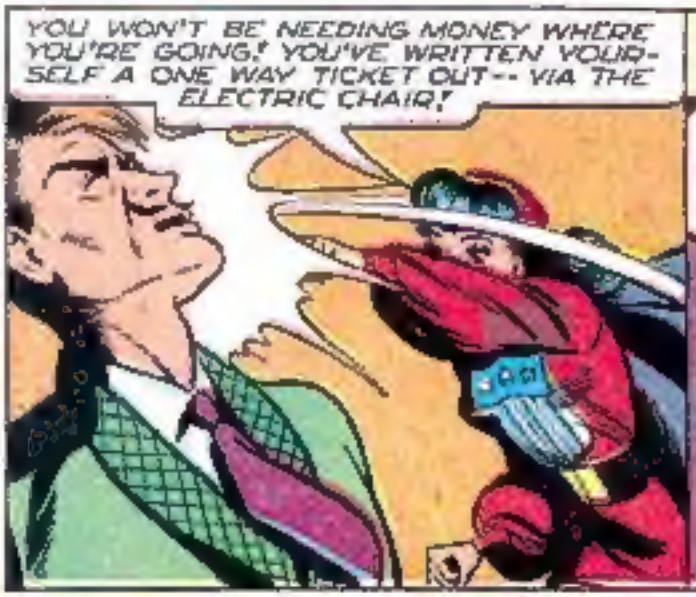
NOW, WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
YOUR ATTENTION! YOUR NIECE DIANA IS--- DEAD! SHE WAS--- MURDERED!
DEAD? I DON'T BELIEVE IT! BU--BUT WHO'D WANT TO MURDER HER?
H'MMM! DOESN'T ACT GUILTY!
SOMEONE WHO PROFITS BY HER DEATH, PERHAPS! JUST WHO DOES PROFIT, MR. LUKAS? DO YOU--?
HOW DARE YOU! I DON'T GAIN! THE ESTATE GOES TO THE BRINGHAM FOUNDATION FOR PARALYTICS!
THEN WHY ARE YOU AFRAID?
WELL, THAT LET'S YOU OUT! MY APOLOGIES FOR ANNOYING YOU!
HER CASE AGAINST LUKAS APPARENTLY NULIFIED BY THE TERMS OF THE WILL, MISS AMERICA TURNS TO GO.
THAT'S AN INTERESTING RING! I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE!
THE DESIGN IS COMMON!
YOU LIE! THE DESIGN IS RARE! YOUR RING LEFT IT'S MARK! YOU ARE THE KILLER!
YOU FOOL!
THAT RING WILL SEND YOU TO THE GALLOWS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT WOULD BE DISCOVERED THAT YOU WERE STEALING MONEY FROM THE ESTATE! YOU FACED DISGRACE WHEN DIANA CAME OF AGE!
SO I KILLED HER-- BUT YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO TELL IT!

YES, I WILL! YOU GAVE HER POISON IN HER COFFEE AND CALLED A CAB, THINKING SHE'D DIE IN IT! YOU WOULD FOLLOW IN YOUR CAR---


WHEN THE DRIVER RECOGNIZED THE BODY AND WENT FOR HELP, YOU INTENDED TO STEAL IT! HER DEATH WOULD BE REPORTED BUT HER BODY NEVER FOUND!
WHAT WOULD I GAIN?

TIME! TO REPLACE THE MONEY! THE ESTATE COULDN'T CHANGE HANDS UNTIL SHE WAS DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD! THAT WOULD LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS FOR SEVEN YEARS!

BUT THERE WAS A SLIP! DWANA BROKE AWAY, GAINED THE STREET AND DIED IN MY ARMS! YOU CHANGED YOUR PLANS ACCORDINGLY! I'LL BET HER BODY'S IN YOUR CELLAR RIGHT NOW!
YES! I NEEDED THE MONEY! KILLING HER WAS THE ONLY WAY OUT!


YOU WON'T BE NEEDING MONEY WHERE YOU'RE GOING! YOU'VE WRITTEN YOURSELF A ONE WAY TICKET OUT-- VIA THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!

AND WITH THE KILLER SAFE IN JAIL, MISS AMERICA RESUMES HER ROLE AS MADELINE AND---
WELL! AT LAST YOU FIND TIME TO VISIT YOUR POOR, SICK UNCLE! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
GALLIVANTING, UNCLE! I HAD TO SEE A MAN ABOUT A RING!
THE END